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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 04208.0083

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Masahiro YAMAMOTO) Group Art Unit: 2623
)
Application No.: 09/648,372) Examiner: Vikkram Bali
)
Filed: August 25, 2000)
)
For: PATTERN INSPECTION)
APPARATUS, PATTERN)
INSPECTION METHOD, AND)
RECORDING MEDIUM)

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Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement includes a certification as specified by Section 1.97(e).

Each document listed in the Form PTO 1449 enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication mailed October 28, 2003 from the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, entitled "Final Decision

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For Rejection." This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication. An English translation of that communication is attached. Applicant submits that this communication does not constitute prior art and, further, Applicant does not necessarily subscribe to any of the characterizations set forth in that communication.

Copies of the following documents listed in the attached Form PTO 1449 are enclosed:

1. Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 4-194702 and an English translation thereof.
2. Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 63-88682 and corresponding U.S. Patent 4,805,123.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

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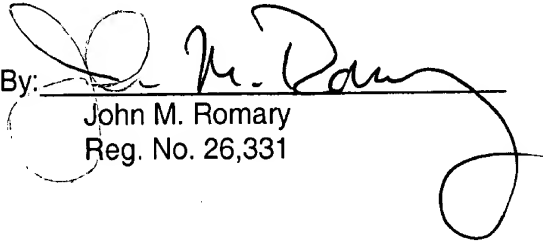
Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 28, 2004

By: 
John M. Romary
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